

2021-
2022

NEW CADET GUIDE

Chapter 1: Overview



CORPS OF CADETS
VIRGINIA TECH.





Cadet Class of 2025,

I want to first congratulate you on your acceptance to Virginia Tech and your decision to join the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Your decision to join an organization of men and women who have dedicated themselves to service and duty to the nation is admirable. By joining the Corps of Cadets, you have chosen the road less traveled. Your time here will help you develop your skills as a leader and a follower. It will not be easy. You will experience hardships. You will fail, but that is OK. Your success will be determined by how well you recover from your hardships and continue facing the difficulties head-on. You will be challenged to become a strong student, leader, and follower, and those things can be difficult to balance. However, my cadre are well-trained and look forward to helping build you into the leaders you want to be.

As your Regimental Commander, my goal is to help build you up into effective followers and then leaders that will soon lead our nation. My staff and I are excited to welcome you to this organization of tradition, respect, honor, and success. Here, you will develop into the men and women you strive to be. You will develop a sense of urgency, resiliency, and grit to push through the difficult times to set yourself up for success. You will soon grow close to your hundreds of buds across the regiment, many of which will become some of your closest friends both here in the Corps and throughout your entire life. Winston Churchill stated, "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

As a member of the Corps of Cadets, you will learn things about yourself you may have never learned elsewhere, and I encourage you to venture into territories where you are uncomfortable. By doing so, you will learn to firstly lead yourself, then others. This will lead to your success as a student, cadet, and well-rounded future leader of our nation. I look forward to welcoming you. Good luck.

Very Respectfully,

C/Ratcliffe

Welcome to the Corps of Cadets.

New Cadet Week is Aug. 14-21.



Step One: Choose a Track

The Corps offers two tracks for cadets: Military-Leader and Citizen-Leader.

- The Military-Leader Track is for cadets in ROTC programs who are pursuing a military commission.
- The Citizen-Leader Track is for cadets who value the Corps' military lifestyle without a military obligation upon graduation.

Citizen-Leader Track (VPI Battalion)

To enroll in the Citizen-Leader Track, register for the first-year class listed below, in addition to MGT 1945 required for all first-year cadets.

- Citizen-Leader Track: MGT 1935, CRN 88429

It meets Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. You will receive more information about the class during New Cadet Week's VPI Battalion Information Session. Do not allow your academic department advisors to schedule you for classes that meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

VPI Battalion uses the Navy Physical Fitness Test. It includes a plank, two minutes of push-ups, and a 1.5-mile run. You do not have to pass the physical fitness test your first try.

To see the standards by gender and age range:

- Men: navy-prt.com/us-navy-overall-fitness-standards/navy-pt-standards-for-men/pt-standards-males-20-24/
- Women: navy-prt.com/us-navy-overall-fitness-standards/navy-pt-standards-for-woman/pt-standards-females-20-24/

As Virginia Tech pursues international prominence in the area of integrated security, Citizen-Leader Track cadets will be in a great position to pursue cross-disciplinary majors and skills necessary for careers in the public and private sectors.

Great organizations are looking to employ graduates who are purpose-driven, have a strong work ethic, can execute, and put service first. Within the Corps' military structure, you will assume responsible positions and take classes in leadership, professionalism, and ethics. Because our Citizen-Leader Track is unique among the senior military colleges, you will stand out in your first job interview and throughout your career.

When you graduate, you will join a network of over 10,000 Corps alumni who share your college experience and who can help you find jobs in your chosen career. There is no military obligation for Citizen-Leader Track cadets.

Over 80 percent of Citizen-Leader Track graduates have cemented their plans by the time they graduate. Over the past few years, they have gone on to work for organizations such as the Defense Intelligence Agency, the CIA, the Naval Nuclear Lab, Northrop Grumman, Amazon, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, and IBM. Some 23 percent commission as officer into the Marine Corps through the Platoon Leaders Course (PLC). Others are admitted to graduate school for further studies.



Military-Leader Track (ROTC)

To enroll in ROTC as a first-year cadet, register for the first-year ROTC classes for the program of your choice.

- Army ROTC MS 1005
- Navy ROTC MN 1004
- Air Force ROTC AS 1115 (class) + AS 2944 (lab) + AS 2934 (physical fitness)

The ROTC classes are offered at various times and can be found in the Timetable of Classes on [Hokie SPA](#). The ROTC laboratories meet Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

AFROTC cadets:

1. The Friday AFROTC lab is available only to upperclass cadets.
2. Please be aware that you should not sign up for a 9:30 a.m. Tuesday/Thursday class if you sign up for AS 2934 Tuesday/Thursdays, or a 9:05 a.m. Monday/Wednesday class if you sign up for AS 2934 Monday/Wednesday. AS 2934 runs until 9:15 a.m. (even though it says 8:50 a.m. in the Timetable of Classes), and you won't have enough time to shower before your next class.

Activating Your Four-Year ROTC Scholarship

If you have been awarded a four-year ROTC scholarship through the national ROTC scholarship application process, congratulations! Your scholarship toward your tuition and fees will post as a pending credit this summer. To activate your scholarship, you must pass your first ROTC-administered physical fitness test. If you do not pass, your ROTC will discuss additional opportunities you might have to pass.

Typically, this test is administered the first week of school and the results submitted within two weeks. You will most likely see the first half of your book stipend and monthly stipend by the end of the first or second month of classes. Once you pass your physical fitness test, the tuition and fees credit will change from pending to an actual credit on your tuition bill. During your first year on an ROTC scholarship, you should plan on paying for your books and covering your monthly stipend until the end of the first or second month of school.

Compete for an On-Campus ROTC Scholarship

ROTC programs offer three-year and two-year on-campus scholarships. The opportunity to earn one varies by ROTC and from year to year based on the needs of the services. ROTC programs will share more information in their classes this fall. Generally, you will enroll in their classes/lab, attend their physical fitness training sessions, and do as well as you can academically, especially in your ROTC class. They will submit those eligible to compete for the three-and-a-half or three-year scholarship nationally (if you are enrolled in ROTC, there is no individual application) after first semester grades are finalized, usually sometime in the spring semester. If you are not selected, the two-year scholarship process is the same for sophomores and rising juniors.

Air Force and Naval ROTCs award many of their scholarships to STEM majors. However, you can still earn an ROTC scholarship as a non-STEM major. Army ROTC and the Marine Option do not require you to major in a STEM area. In fact, Army ROTC has additional ROTC scholarships for STEM majors.

Army ROTC

Scholarships

If you plan to enroll in Army ROTC and would like to know more about Minuteman Guaranteed Reserve Force Duty (GFRD) scholarship opportunities that may still be available for fall 2021, contact the Army ROTC enrollment officer at rotc@vt.edu. GRFD scholarships require you to serve in the National Guard or U.S. Army Reserves upon graduation and commissioning.

Students seeking regular (active duty) scholarships will have the opportunity to compete for them during the academic year, once enrolled in Army ROTC.

Students who have already received Army ROTC scholarships through the National High School Board process will be given further details on contracting requirements and procedures through a Zoom information session. Time, date, and meeting link for the session will be posted via the Corps Canvas site and emailed at a later date.

Physical Fitness

The Cadet Command Fitness Assessment (CCFA) is currently being used to assess the physical fitness of cadets until the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) is phased in to use. Although we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the ACFT, you must prepare yourself to pass the CCFA. The CCFA consists of one minute of push-ups, one minute of a modified sit-up, and a one-mile run.

When you report to campus in August, be prepared to pass with the following minimum standards:

- Men: 30 push-ups, 35 modified sit-ups, 8:00-minute one-mile run
- Women: 13 push-ups, 30 modified sit-ups, 10:00-minute one-mile run

Keep in mind: These are the minimum CCFA fitness standards. Cadets should always strive to do their best. Four-year scholarship winners must pass the CCFA this fall before they can activate their scholarships.

Required Documents

Download and upload required Army ROTC enrollment document through the Corps' Canvas site. When you report to New Cadet Week, however, you must bring the following items because we must see the original or notarized versions:

- Original birth certificate or naturalization certificate, or a certified or notarized copy AND a photocopy of the document.
- Original Social Security card, or a certified or notarized copy AND a photocopy of the document.

We will verify the original or notarized versions and return them back to you immediately. We will keep the photocopied versions.

Army ROTC Classes

Incoming first-year cadets should enroll in the Army ROTC Military Science 1 (MS 1005). Transfer students coming into Virginia Tech and Army ROTC as academic sophomores or juniors may have different Military Science requirements and should discuss with Ms. Donna Mallet or Mr. Buck Kellogg before orientation.

POC

- Ms. Donna Mallet: 540-231-4804 or 540-522-4493
- Mr. Buck Kellogg: 540-231-4804
- rotc@vt.edu
- liberalarts.vt.edu/departments-and-schools/rotc/army.html

Naval ROTC

If you are enrolled in Naval ROTC and would like to know more about on-campus scholarship opportunities, email Dr. Francis Cavendish at fcavendish@vt.edu.

Physical Fitness, Naval

The physical fitness test includes a plank, two minutes of push-ups, and a 1.5-mile run.

- Men: navy-prt.com/us-navy-overall-fitness-standards/navy-pt-standards-for-men/pt-standards-males-20-24/
- Women: navy-prt.com/us-navy-overall-fitness-standards/navy-pt-standards-for-woman/pt-standards-females-20-24/

Physical Fitness, Marine Option

The physical fitness test includes two minutes of crunches, pull-ups (men) or flexed arm-hang (women), and a 3-mile run. See the standards by gender and age at fitness.marines.mil.

Required Paperwork

Download the forms from the VTCC 2025-Fall 2021 / ROTC Paperwork course site on Canvas. Be sure to select the appropriate category for "Scholarship" or "College Program" (not on scholarship). Alternately, the forms are available for download on the VT NROTC website at liberalarts.vt.edu/rotc/navy.html.

Upon download, save the forms as a PDF file on your device. Complete the forms and submit as an “upload” into Canvas under the same module you downloaded the forms from. Please do not sign anything so the NROTC unit staff can witness. Bring an original certified birth certificate, passport, or citizen naturalization certificate, Social Security card, and driver’s license (if you have one).

Those on scholarship must have a completed DoDMERB physical that is stamped “qualified” or “waiverable,” prior to swear-in. Those who wish to join the college program will need to provide a copy of the Corps of Cadets sports physical and immunizations record, which means you will need two copies: one copy uploaded to Schiffert Health Center and the other given to the Naval ROTC at orientation.

ALL new midshipmen joining Naval ROTC are also required to provide a copy of a Sickle Cell lab test. This can be completed at Schiffert Health Center or at the time of your sports physical.

POC

Dr. Francis Cavendish

■ 540-231-1958

■ fcavendish@vt.edu

■ liberalarts.vt.edu/rotc/navy.html

For more specific medical questions

Ms. Lynn Ott

■ 540-231-8525

■ lynnott@vt.edu

Air Force ROTC

If you are enrolled in Air Force ROTC and would like to know more about in-college scholarship opportunities, contact Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC at usaf@vt.edu. Cadets in a four-year program who are eligible will meet a scholarship board during the spring semester. Cadets in a three-year program will have a fall scholarship board.

Physical Fitness

The physical fitness test includes one minute of push-ups, one minute of sit-ups, and a 1.5-mile run. See the standards by gender and age at afrotc.com/what-it-takes/fitness.

Required Paperwork

Download the Air Force ROTC “Directions & Required Documents” and follow it to complete all required actions. If you have questions, email TSgt Spotswood at christophers84@vt.edu and SSgt Standford at opichkai@vt.edu. Bring your Air Force paperwork with you to New Cadet Week for processing.

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TSgt Spotswood and SSgt Standford

■ 540-231-6404

■ usaf@vt.edu

■ af.vt.edu



The Highty-Tighties

If you are interested in joining the Highty-Tighties, the regimental band, complete the Highty-Tighties Stipend Form and enroll in the one-credit Instrument Ensemble Music class, Music 3314 (CRN: 88862, Instructor: JM Bean). It will meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in 243 Squires.

The Highty-Tighties use silver-tone instruments, which are provided. The Highty-Tighties also offer a jazz band, a pep band, buglers, a brass quintet, a string ensemble, and more. You will earn academic credit each semester you are in the regimental band.

Band is your company in the Corps of Cadets; it is not in addition to the Corps. Your academic success is very important. If you effectively use your study hours (the band has the same dedicated study hours as line companies), you will be able to balance your academic major (including engineering) and participation in the band. Why not surround yourself with fellow cadets who share your love of making music?

Our alumni provide a \$1,000 first-year stipend for first-year band members. If you have questions about life in the band, preferred musical experience, or performances, reach out to Senior Chief Jim Bean.

POC

MUCS Jim Bean

■ 540-231-3296

■ jbean88@vt.edu

■ vtcc.vt.edu/band.html

■ [YouTube](#)